

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 112806
ORIGIN AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SY-05 USSS-00 SS-15 CPR-01 PA-01
ICA-11 /044 R

DRAFTED BY AF/E:PGSMITH:JJ
APPROVED BY AF/E:SHAMRICK
-----011980 040730Z /11
R 032007Z MAY 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY LILONGWE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 112806

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP (BANDA, H. KAMUZU)

SUBJECT: BANDA VISIT UPDATE

1. DEPARTMENT HAS BEEN ADVISED THAT PRESIDENT BANDA HAS DECIDED TO EXTEND STAY IN NASHVILLE UNTIL FRIDAY, MAY 5, THEN FLY TO DAYTON, VISIT WILBERFORCE, OVERNIGHT, AND CONTINUE TO BLOOMINGTON ON MAY 6. HE WILL RECEIVED DEGREE MAY 7 AND DEPART MAY 8, TRANSITING WASHINGTON BRIEFLY EN ROUTE LONDON AND MALAWI.

2. FSO IN NASHVILLE MAYOR'S OFFICE REPORTS VISIT THERE GOING VERY WELL. BANDA WAS VISIBLY IMPRESSED BY TENNESSEE GOVERNOR BLANTON'S GREETING AT AIRPORT ON ARRIVAL, AND MEHARRY PEOPLE HAVE ARRANGED A SERIES OF FLATTERING EVENTS AND PUBLIC APPEARANCES. IN ONE SPEECH, BANDA REPORTEDLY CALLED FOR "WINNING OVER" THE WHITES OF SOUTH AFRICA TO THE CAUSE OF MAJORITY RULE INSTEAD OF "BLUDGEONING" THEM WITH THE THREAT OF SANCTIONS. DEPARTMENT IS NOT AWARE THAT THESE REMARKS OR OTHER ASPECTS OF BANDA'S NASHVILLE VISIT HAVE YET RECEIVED NATIONAL
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MEDIA ATTENTION, ALTHOUGH VOA MAY HAVE COVERED.

3. DEPARTMENT ALSO UNDERSTANDS THAT THIS IS EXAM WEEK AT INDIANA UNIVERSITY, AND THAT BY TIME OF BANDA'S ARRIVAL THERE MOST STUDENTS WILL HAVE LEFT CAMPUS. SOURCES AT UNIVERSITY BELIEVE THAT ANY DEMONSTRATION OR PROTEST AGAINST HIS RECEIPT OF AN HONORARY DEGREE WILL

THEREFORE BE VERY SMALL, AND WILL BE VIRTUALLY LOST
AGAINST THE BACKDROP OF A COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY AT
WHICH OVER 10,000 WILL BE PRESENT.

CHRISTOPHER

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